



Miami-Dade County Health Department. Call 24 hours a day at (305) 470-5660



ANTHRAX

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Bacterial disease caused by *Bacillus anthracis*, that affects mammals, and can be aerosolized for bio-terrorism purposes

HOW YOU CAN CATCH IT

No person-to-person spread. You can catch inhalational anthrax by breathing anthrax spore from infected animal products (e.g. wool), or in an intentional or bio-terrorist release into the air.

TIME FROM EXPOSURE TO ILLNESS

Incubation period for inhalational anthrax is 71-7 days. In some cases, symptoms of inhalational anthrax can take up to 60 days to show up

MAJOR SYMPTOMS

Inhalational anthrax usually has a flu-like presentation, with sore throat, nausea, mild fever and muscle aches followed by cough, chest discomfort, shortness of breath and tiredness. Some people experience upset stomach.

PREVENTION AFTER EXPOSURE

A 60-days course of antibiotics such as ciprofloxacin, Doxycycline, amoxicillin, or penicillin is required. Be sure to inform your doctor of what medication you are taking.

PROPHYLAXIS INFORMATION

ANTIBIOTIC	CLASS	DISPENSING INSTRUCTIONS	DRUG INTERACTION	SIDE EFFECTS	WARNING
Ciprofloxacin (Cipro 500 mg)	QUINOLONE	Take this antibiotic as prescribed: one tablet by mouth, two times a day. Keep taking your antibiotic until it is finished, unless your doctor tell you to stop. Drink plenty of water while you are taking Cipro. It is best if taken 2 hours after a meal. <i>Do not take 2 doses at the same time!</i>	Do not take this antibiotic if you have had an allergic reaction to ciprofloxacin (Noroxin), ofloxacin (Floxin), or nalidixic acid (NegGram).	There may be mild diarrhea, stomach pain, dizziness. Seek medical attention right away if you are having: Rapid heart rate, rash or hives; swelling of face, throat, or lips; shortness of breath or trouble breathing; seizure; or severe diarrhea.	Tell emergency healthcare workers if you are pregnant, have epilepsy or kidney disease, or are breastfeeding. Avoid driving or using machinery until you know how the antibiotic will affect you. Use sunscreen to avoid sunburn.
Doxycycline 100 mg	Tetracycline	Take this antibiotic as prescribed:one tablet by mouth, two times a day. Keep taking your antibiotic until it is finished, unless your doctor tells you to stop. Food or milk may help you avoid upset stomach. <i>Do not take 2 doses at the same time!</i>	Do not take this medicines if you have had an allergic reaction to any tetracycline antibiotics. Do not take the following medicines within 2 hours of taking Doxycycline; antacids such as Maalox or Mylanta; calcium or iron supplements, Cholestyramine (Questran), or cholestipol (Colestid)	There might be diarrhea, upset stomach, nausea, sensitivity to sunlight, or itching. Seek medical attention right away if you are having: rapid heart rate, skin rash, hives, or itching;wheezing or trouble breathing; swelling of the face, lips or throat.	Tell emergency health care workers if you are or might be pregnant or if you are breastfeeding. Use sunscreen to avoid sunburn.
Amoxicillin: 250 mg capsules Or 250 mg/5ml suspension	Semi-synthetic Antibiotic	Take amoxicillin as prescribed: 3 times a day or every 8 hours as directed by health care workers. For oral suspension, shake well before using; keep refrigerated. Keep taking your antibiotic until it is finished, unless your doctor tells you to stop. Food or milk may help you avoid upset stomach. <i>Do not take 2 doses at the same time!</i>	Do not take amoxicillin if you have had an allergic reaction to amoxicillin, penicillin, or cephalosporin antibiotics such as Keflex or Ceclor. Inform your doctor if you are taking the medicine Probenecid. Use a birth control method other than pills; they may not work as well while taking amoxicillin.	There may be mild diarrhea, nausea, upset stomach, itching. Seek medical attention right away if you are having: Rapid heart rate, wheezing or trouble breathing ; skin rash, hives or itching; swelling of the face, lips or throat; or throat; or severe diarrhea.	Considered safe in pregnancy and while breastfeeding.

If you are taking any other medication or are pregnant, be sure to inform your doctor of what medication you have just received. He/She will advise you of adverse interactions

